

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application and entry of the Amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 20 are currently pending, claims 5 and 11 to 20 have been canceled, and claims 1 and 10 have been amended.

The Office Action mailed July 19, 2004 addressed claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 20. Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 20 were rejected.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that it is not clear where the cover is claimed.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended by this Amendment to more clearly claim the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to claim a cover disposed about the core, and claim 10 has been amended to delete the phrase "further comprising a cover..." because it ultimately depends from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that this overcomes the rejection of claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 10. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 11 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sullivan et al. (5,984,806). The Examiner rejected the claims for various reasons.

Although Applicant continues to respectfully disagree with the Examiner, in an effort to hasten prosecution, claims 11 to 20 have been canceled by this Amendment. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the canceled claims in a divisional application.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11 to 20 are not obvious over Sullivan. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 11 to 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney if it is deemed that a telephone conversation will hasten prosecution of the application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of each of the presently rejected claims, claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 20. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1 to 4 and 7 to 10, the claims currently pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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